

CLAIMS

1. A modular device for coating surfaces of items (10)
 - in a vacuum chamber (20), in which a physical vapour deposition (PVD) method can be carried out, wherein,
 - the vacuum chamber (20) comprises at least one anode means as well as a plurality of receiving devices for cathodes (40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54); wherein several arcs between the anode means, of which there is at least one, and the cathodes (40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54) can be ignited;
 - wherein a first receiving device (30) for receiving at least one cathode (40, 42, 44, 46) is provided substantially in the centre of the vacuum chamber (20); and
 - at least one second receiving device (32, 34) for receiving at least one cathode (48, 50, 52, 54) at the edge of the vacuum chamber (20) is provided,

characterised in that

the second receiving device (32, 34) or the second receiving devices (32, 34) for receiving at least one cathode (48, 50, 52, 54) on the edge of the vacuum chamber (20) are designed as removable and/or swing-open doors for the vacuum chamber (20).
2. The modular device for coating surfaces of items (10) of claim 1, characterised in that two receiving

devices (32, 34) for receiving at least two cathodes (48, 50, 52, 54) each are provided that are arranged on the edge of the vacuum chamber (20) as removable and/or swing-open doors of the vacuum chamber (20).

3. The modular device for coating surfaces of items (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the second receiving device (32, 34) or the second receiving devices (32, 34) for receiving at least two cathodes (48, 50, 52, 54) on the edge of the vacuum chamber (20) are each designed for receiving rotating cathodes that are arranged substantially vertically and that are of approximately cylindrical design.
4. The modular device for coating surfaces of items (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the second receiving device (32, 34) or the second receiving devices (32, 34) are each designed for receiving a plurality of cathodes (48, 50, 52, 54), arranged substantially one on top of the other, on the edge of the vacuum chamber (20), wherein the cathodes are substantially horizontally aligned cathodes that are approximately cylindrical in shape and protrude into the vacuum chamber.
5. The modular device for coating surfaces of items (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the above-mentioned first receiving device (30) for receiving cathodes (40, 42, 44, 46) in the centre of the vacuum chamber (20) is designed for receiving optionally one to four cathodes, preferably rotating cathodes that are arranged so as to be substantially vertical and are approximately cylindrical in shape.
6. A system for coating surfaces of items (10)

- in a vacuum chamber (20), in which a physical vapour deposition (PVD) method can be carried out, with
- a vacuum chamber (20), at least one anode means,
- at least one cathode (40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54),
- a substrate arrangement means (60) for receiving one or several items (10) to be coated, wherein an arc between the anode means, of which there is at least one, and the cathode (40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54) of which there is at least one, can be ignited;

characterised by

a modular cathode arrangement according to the modular device of claims 1 to 5.

7. A system for coating surfaces of items (10) according to claim 6, characterised in that the vacuum chamber (20) is the anode means.
8. A system for coating surfaces of items (10) according to claim 6 or 7, characterised in that the substrate arrangement means (60) is a rotary carousel, wherein the rotary carousel is designed around the first receiving device (30) for receiving one or several cathodes (40, 42, 44, 46).
9. A system for coating surfaces of items (10) according to claim 8, characterised in that the rotary carousel is designed such that on the rotary carousel rotary trolleys can be arranged for receiving items to be

coated, and/or for receiving satellites for receiving items to be coated.